



NEWS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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NEBRASKA'S MARCH 1, 2002 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

LINCOLN, Neb. March 28, 2002-Nebraska's producers expect to increase acreage planted to corn, oats, dry edible beans, and sugar beets, while decreasing acreage devoted to soybeans, sorghum, winter wheat (planted last fall), sunflowers, and hay, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service.

Nebraska **corn** growers expect to plant 8.4 million acres in 2002, up 4 percent from last year but 1 percent below 2000. This increase in plantings would stop the downward trend in corn which began in 1998. Of these acres, 32 percent are expected to be planted to insect resistant (Bt) varieties, 9 percent to herbicide resistant varieties, and 2 percent to stacked gene varieties, compared to 24 percent, 8 percent and 2 percent respectively a year ago.

For the first time since 1996, Nebraska producers expect to plant fewer acres of **soybeans** than the previous year. Expected plantings of 4.9 million acres in 2002, would be the second highest, down 1 percent from the record high set last year but 5 percent above 2000. Of these acres, 86 percent are expected to be planted to herbicide resistant varieties, up from 76 percent last year.

Last fall **winter wheat** was sown on 1.7 million acres, down 3 percent from a year earlier and two years ago.

Sorghum growers expect to plant 400,000 acres, 27 percent less than 2001 and down 33 percent from 2000.

Hay acreage for harvest, at 3.2 million, would be down 2 percent from last year. **Oat** planting intentions at 175,000 are up 13 percent from 2001. **Dry edible bean** producers intend to plant 175,000 acres, up 9 percent for a year earlier. Sugar Beet plantings of 56,000 acres would be up 15 percent from 2001. **Sunflower** planting intentions of 80,000 are down 2 percent.

These acreage estimates are based primarily on surveys conducted the first 2 weeks of March. This report is intended to assist growers in formulating their acreage plans for 2002. Actual acreage planted may vary from that indicated due to final farmer assessment of planting options, the effects of weather, availability of production inputs, and changes in expected prices for 2002 crops.

Access the National publication for this release at:

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